(b) if so, steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) whether Government intends to issue any directives in this regard or to impose a ban on such items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) As per information available, there are few studies to indicate a positive correlation between consumption of junk foods and obesity leading to diet related chronic non-communicable diseases;

(b) and (c) Government is making efforts to discourage consumption of junk foods including carbonated beverages and make people aware of nutritious and healthy foods;

The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare has written to health Ministers of all States & UTs to consider issuing instructions for withdrawal of junk food and carbonated drinks from school and college canteens; Letters have also been written to chief Minister of all States and UTs to seriously consider issuing instructions to Vice Chancellors of all Universities including Medical and agricultural Universities of their respective States for withdrawal of junk food and carbonated drinks from canteens of education institutes.

Promotion of homoeopathy

4077. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to promote Homeopathy as a medical discipline in the country;

(b) which is the nodal agency to promote study and research in homoeopathy; and

(c) which are the institutions in the country that have been recognized for teaching homoeopathy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) For

promotion of Homoeopathy, the Central Government has established the following:—

(1) Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy as the apex Research Organization.

(2) Central Council of Homoeopathy for regulating education and practice of the Homoeopathy, under the provisions of Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973.

(3) Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory for Quality Control of drugs and for laying down Pharmacopoeial standards.

(4) Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Committee to prepare draft Pharmacopoeia and to lay down principles and standards for the preparation of drugs.

(5) The National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata.

(c) There are 182 Under Graduate colleges, 30 upgraded departments for P.G. training and 2 P.G. colleges, whose medical qualifications are recognized under the Homoeopathy Central Council Act. A copy of this list has been kept in the Parliament Library for information. The information is also available on the website of the Central Council for Homoeopathy at www.cchindia.com.

Diabetes prevention

4078. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the International Diabetes Federation, there are 41 million diabetics in the country and this number is growing dramatically both in cities and villages;

(b) if so, the rate at which the diabetic patients are increasing in the country; and

(c) the preventive measures taken by Government to check this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) According